

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claims 1, 4 and 6-9 without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein.

Please amend Claims 2, 3, 5 and 10-20 and add new Claim 21 as follows. All of the pending claims in this application are listed below.

1. (Cancelled)

2. (Original) The optical scanning apparatus according to ~~Claim 1~~ Claim 5, wherein said sagittal asymmetric change surfaces comprise two or more sagittal modification surfaces in which magnitude relation differs among curvatures in the sagittal direction at respective positions in the meridional direction with respect to the optical axis.

3. (Currently Amended) The optical scanning apparatus according to ~~Claim 1~~ Claim 5, wherein ~~said sagittal deformation surfaces comprise two or more surfaces in which the~~ curvatures in the sagittal direction at the respective positions in the meridional direction with respect to the optical axis become large or small on the same side.

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Currently Amended) ~~The optical scanning apparatus according to Claim 1, An~~ optical scanning apparatus comprising:

a light source;

deflecting means;

entrance optical means for guiding light emitted from the light source to the

deflecting means; and

scanning optical means for forming an image of the light reflectively deflected by the deflecting means, on a surface to be scanned,

wherein the scanning optical means comprises a plurality of sagittal asymmetric change surfaces in which curvatures in the sagittal direction change on an asymmetric basis in the meridional direction with respect to the optical axis of the scanning optical means, and

wherein [[in]] at least one surface of said sagittal asymmetric change surfaces the curvatures in the sagittal direction have ~~has~~ an inflection point ~~only~~ on one side of the optical axis in the meridional direction with respect to the optical axis.

6-9. (Cancelled)

10. (Currently Amended) The optical scanning apparatus according to Claim 5, wherein said light source includes a plurality of light-emitting regions for emitting a plurality of beams and the plurality of beams are guided from said light source to said deflecting means by said entrance optical means and images of the beams reflectively deflected by said deflecting means are formed on a surface to be scanned by said scanning optical means ~~A multi-beam optical scanning apparatus comprising light source means having a plurality of light-emitting regions, entrance optical means for guiding a plurality of beams emitted from the light source~~

~~means, to deflecting means, and scanning optical means for focusing the plurality of beams reflectively deflected by the deflecting means, on a surface to be scanned;~~

~~wherein said scanning optical means comprises a plurality of sagittal asymmetric change surfaces in which curvatures in the sagittal direction change on an asymmetric basis in the meridional direction with respect to the optical axis of the scanning optical means.~~

11. (Currently Amended) The multi-beam optical scanning apparatus according to Claim 10, wherein said sagittal asymmetric change surfaces comprise two or more sagittal modification surfaces in which magnitude relation differs among curvatures in the sagittal direction at respective positions in the meridional direction with respect to the optical axis.

12. (Currently Amended) The multi-beam optical scanning apparatus according to Claim 11, wherein said sagittal deformation surfaces comprise two or more surfaces in which the curvatures in the sagittal direction at the respective positions in the meridional direction with respect to the optical axis become large or small on the same side.

13. (Currently Amended) The multi-beam optical scanning apparatus according to Claim 11, wherein in at least one surface of said sagittal deformation surfaces the curvatures in the sagittal direction become large on the side of said light source means with respect to the optical axis.

14. (Currently Amended) The ~~multi-beam~~ optical scanning apparatus according to Claim 10, wherein in at least one surface of said sagittal asymmetric change surfaces the curvatures in the sagittal direction have an inflection point only on one side in the meridional direction with respect to the optical axis.

15. (Currently Amended) The ~~multi-beam~~ optical scanning apparatus according to Claim 10, wherein said scanning optical means comprises a plurality of $f\theta$ lenses, an $f\theta$ lens located closest to the deflecting means out of said plurality of $f\theta$ lenses has a negative, refractive power in the sub-scanning direction, and an $f\theta$ lens located closest to the surface to be scanned has a positive, refractive power in the sub-scanning direction.

16. (Currently Amended) The ~~multi-beam~~ optical scanning apparatus according to Claim 15, wherein all lens surfaces of said plurality of $f\theta$ lenses are formed in a concave shape opposed to said deflecting means.

17. (Currently Amended) The ~~multi-beam~~ optical scanning apparatus according to Claim 10, wherein the following condition is satisfied:

$$k/W \leq 0.6$$

where k is an $f\theta$ coefficient of said scanning optical means and W an effective scanning width on said surface to be scanned.

18. (Currently Amended) The ~~multi-beam~~ optical scanning apparatus according to Claim 10, wherein the following condition is satisfied:

$$|\beta_s| \geq 2$$

where β_s is a lateral magnification in the sub-scanning direction of said scanning optical means.

19. (Currently Amended) An image-forming apparatus comprising:

the scanning optical apparatus as set forth in ~~either any one of Claims 1 to 18]~~ 5 and 11;

a photosensitive body located at ~~said the~~ surface to be ~~scanned;~~ scanned;

a developing unit for developing an electrostatic, latent image formed on said photosensitive body with the light under scan by said scanning optical apparatus, into a toner ~~image;~~ image;

a transfer unit for transferring ~~said the~~ developed toner image onto a transfer ~~medium;~~ medium; and

a fixing unit for fixing the transferred toner image on the transfer medium.

20. (Currently Amended) An image-forming apparatus comprising the scanning optical apparatus as set forth in ~~either any one of Claims 1 to 18]~~ 5 and 11; and

a printer controller for converting code data supplied from an external device, into an image signal and supplying the image signal to said scanning optical apparatus.

21. (New) An optical scanning apparatus according to Claim 5, wherein said light source comprises a plurality of light-emitting regions.